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Letter dated 21 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the escalation of the situation in Donbass (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and the enclosed statement distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

17-12986 (E) 020817

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Annex to the letter dated 21 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on escalation in Donbass

21 July 2017

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its strongest protest against the intensification of Russia's aggressive actions in Donbass and violent attacks and shelling by the Russian hybrid forces, including with the use of tanks, self-propelled artillery, rocket launchers and mortars.

The damage made to a residential house in the town of Krasnohorivka (Donetsk region), as well as the attack of the Russian subversive group on the outskirts of this town on 20 July is of particular concern.

We consider these actions of the aggressor state as well as Russia-backed militants as a deliberate step to disrupt the "harvest ceasefire", which was due to last, as agreed in the framework of the Trilateral Contact Group, from 24 June until 31 August. Over a short period, from 18 July to 20 July, Ukraine lost 11 servicemen, while 15 other military personnel and 2 civilians were wounded.

We have to make it clear that, by the activities of its forces in the area of Russia-instigated international armed conflict in Donbass, as well as by provocative and aggressive actions of its proxies, the Kremlin deliberately undermines the process aimed at a peaceful resolution of the conflict, based on the Minsk agreements.

We demand from the Russian Federation an immediate halt to the armed provocations, which are increasing the number of casualties and the destruction of regional infrastructure. Furthermore, it must start fully implementing its own commitments under the Minsk agreements.

We expect from the international community, in particular from our partners involved in the peace process, a clear response to the aggressive actions of the Russian hybrid troops in Donbass and the intensification of pressure on the Russian Federation with a view to their immediate cessation.